

For the HERALD] PATRIARCHAL GOVERN- MENT.

BY JOHN H. KELSON.

The present is the ancient period of human society. It may sound strange and paradoxical to apply the term antiquity to the present age; and yet Bacon says: "These are the old times," and surely the world is older now than it ever was.

Shakespeare divided the life of man into stages ranging from helpless infancy to tottering old age; and universal society has run its course through the successive periods of infancy, youth and manhood. And who cannot discern in the weak, broken-down and shattered condition of modern society the languishing decrepitude of old age? The human race has lost its primitive simplicity, and medieval strength and vigor. These facts are unpalatable and humiliating; nevertheless, they are incontrovertible. Humanity has entered the stage of dotage.

The present age yawns its advancement; so has every age. As the ambitious and inexperienced youth imagines that he is wiser than his father, so each generation has prided itself on its superior judgment and progress, and looked back with pity, and smiled with dignified contempt at the simplicity and ignorance of their great grandfathers.

There is one truism which philosophers and humanists seem to have overlooked, i. e. successive change, and enlargement of society do not imply or assure progress and improvement. The acme of civilization is to bring the "greatest happiness to the greatest number." In our times there is a mania for liberty, and a boast of freedom, but the best government on earth, no matter by what name it may be called, is that which gives the greatest protection to the rights of its subjects. The chief aim of most governments of the present age is to protect and maintain their power against the assaults of their subjects. There is in this state of society a visible and ominous tendency to anarchy. Is this a sign of progress and improvement? There was a time when the whole inhabitants of the earth engaged in the apparently laudable efforts of getting to heaven. We smile at their childish simplicity, and imagine ourselves vastly superior to them in wisdom because we make the possession of the good things of the earth our chief concern, and little reck whether heaven is peopled or not.

In the primitive order societies remained unchanged for ages; and dynasties stood for a thousand years. The people enjoyed internal peace and domestic tranquillity. They prided themselves in their ancestry, and sustained their rulers and governments by building cities, walls and towers for their defence. Their works stand to-day as monuments of the sterling worth and mighty force of character of their designers and builders. It would be unpopular, if not disloyal to contrast the achievements of those ancient barbarians with the gigantic emptiness and deplorable egotism of modern society. The contrast is what the immovable rock is to the treacherous quicksand.

Primitive society was simple, hopeful and confident; like childhood it knew no authority but that which emanated from the head of the family. Patriarchal rule was not established by legislative enactments, nor by the victories of conquest and social revolution; but it was the natural and spontaneous outgrowth of human nature. It was founded in universal power of paternal authority and the inward promptings of filial duty and obligation.

This natural idea of patriarchal government was so deeply rooted in elementary society that, so far as we know, it was the only form of government during the antediluvian period. The same government of the fathers was continued in the Noachic generations until the violence of degenerate factions, and the cupidity of ambitious men broke through the natural boundaries of the social constitution, usurped unlawful power, and inaugurated the cruel and abnormal functions of forced rule, or king-craft. Nimrod, the accredited founder of the Assyrian dynasty, according to some authors, was the first king—the first to assume authority outside of tribal relations—and for this daring exploit; and because he was, otherwise a very extraordinary character, he was after his death, deified and became the chief god of the early idolaters. He is the Jove, or Jupiter of ancient mythology. Nimrod is thus the distinguished head and fountain of kingly and priestcraft.

The breach made in the circle of parental government has never been closed. From that time arrogance and alien rule has prevailed, and rioted in merciless atrocity upon poor humanity. "The hearts of the children have been turned from the fathers," and this unholy estrangement has filled the world with greedy conquest, strife and bloodshed.

The loftiest minds and best wisdom of every age have grappled with the question, as to what is the best form of rule to govern and protect human society. The harassing problem would never have arisen to vex mankind if the natural law of patriarchal government had not been violated. There is no hope so fierce as that evoked by

domestic disruption. There is no work so difficult, no experiment so useless as the attempt to unite alien races. The deep secret of government lies in the sociable charm of near relationship and consanguinity. This inbred predilection has out-lived the test and wear of time, the caprices and insatiable greed of usurping tyrants; the changes and upheavals of conquests and social revolutions; and though the true principle of effective and natural government has been lost the shadow of patriarchal right to rule remains in the hereditary privileges of monarchies and aristocracies. These institutions are the outgrowths and culmination of the old feudal system and they represent the prostitution of a correct and universal rule of government by hereditary right to the grasping ambition of a single family, and to the exaltation and aggrandizement of a privileged class.

Nevertheless even in this narrow and perverted application of the patriarchal principle there is exhibited an element of stability of government and a succession of trained statesmen which does not exist in governments that are exposed to the animosities and disturbances of ever-recurring election of a head of the state. The natural life of society is progressive and lasting; and governments should be perpetual. Natural laws never change or lose their adaptability and efficacy. Radical changes and failures in governmental systems are the result of apostasy, or rebellion against true principles. Otherwise the decadence is due to false and abnormal deformity in the social organization.

Considered as experimental efforts to misgovern mankind human counterfeited governments have been stupendous successes; but as instruments of bringing the greatest happiness to the greatest number they have been miserable failures. There can be no complaint of lack of time and opportunity for a fair trial. The experiments have continued through a thousand ages; the area of operations has been the whole habitable globe; and the choice of subjects has included the entire human race. Every conceivable form of government has been tested except the correct one. The idea of returning to first principles and retracing the erratic steps of degeneracy from primitive governments would be repudiated with haughty scorn; and the statesman who suggested patriarchal rule as the remedy for the calamities of misgovernment would be regarded as a hopeless lunatic. Nevertheless, the time will come when the "hearts of the fathers will be turned to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers." Then there will be true government; a reign of peace will follow; "and nations will learn war no more."

The world is governed too much. Strip governments of their external pageantries and supporting paraphernalia, and let society be natural and assume its appropriate rule of government. Each system has its extreme, intermediate and mixed forms; and each possesses within itself the elements of dissolution and decay. Monarchy tends irresistibly to tyranny, aristocracy into oligarchy; and democracy falls asunder and becomes anarchy or mob-government. It is in order to check these inherent tendencies to disruption and failures that many of the mongrel systems of government have been established. The unstable nature of these governments, and the desperate effort of their supporters to defy nature and reverse the decrees of fate, have made countless millions mourn, and deluged the earth with blood.

Few, if any of the flagrant evils of popular government would exist under patriarchal rule. The despotic lives in haughty seclusion from his subjects. Aristocracy is envied by the repellent barbs of caste, and the scornful bearing of a superior class. If the down-trodden masses are obedient, despotism and arrogance fatten on their submission; and in time tyranny becomes unbearable, then revolt and calamity follow. Democracy is the most unstable of the three leading systems. As it recognizes no shadow of hereditary right to govern it is the greatest departure from the patriarchal rule. Consequently it is the shortest lived. Even a very degenerate people may be held together for a long period by the lash of despot, and overwhelming physical forces; but the liberties and privileges of democracy must be enjoyed by a righteous people, and the government be manipulated by good and wise men or its dissolution will be swift and inevitable.

In a community where the head of a tribe, or the ancestors of aggregated families exercised supreme power there would exist the softening influence of relationship and social familiarity. These are the most potent influences of social government. Such a community would have the strongest inducements to obedience and loyalty to their head; and associate his worth and deeds of valor with the pride of relationship to him. How could such a ruler be cruel or unjust to his offspring; or a father become a tyrant over his own children? He could not take away their rights without diminishing his own honor and glory. Having no authority outside of the family circle, his sole interest would be to promote the

prosperity and welfare of his little kingdom. There would be no questions about succession, as his heir would already stand the next in authority to him and assist him in his governmental duties. There would be no political parties; no ponderous political question or rival factions with favor crying platforms; no office begging or election frauds. A thousand other good results and advantages would accrue to mankind if they could be induced to put their social governments in accord with the natural laws of their being.

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adobe and frame, lot two and a

half by twenty rods, Sixteenth Ward, fenced

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a small farm near city.

\$3000 A SIX ROOMED HOUSE, WITH

three rooms and cellar in base-

ment, two pumps, lot two and a half by nine

rods, on Third South street car line, near to

business.

\$3000 A NINE ROOMED FRAME

building, with kitchen and dining

room, suitable for a restaurant and boarding

house. Nine years lease of ground yet to

run. Stock and fixtures at a valuation, near

the D. & R. G. depot.

\$2000 A HOUSE OF THREE ROOMS,

with a house of two rooms adjoin-

ing, rock cellar, outbuildings, etc., lot 24x10

rods, in a rising neighborhood.

\$1500 A HOUSE OF FOUR ROOMS,

and outbuildings, lot 5x10, Third

South street.

\$2000 A NEW BRICK HOUSE OF

four rooms, buttry, bathroom,

closets, etc.; lot 12x10 rods, Tenth ward.

\$4250 A SIX ROOMED HOUSE AND

stable, lot 24x10 rods, with

frame store on line of street; large stable in

rear of lot, etc., etc., on State road, half a

block south of Washington square.

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adobe house of six rooms, with

kitchen and buttry; good cellars under the

whole building, spring in lot, flowing to the

house; lot 10 rods front by 20 rods back; close

to depot.

\$5000 A LARGE FRAME HOUSE OF

five rooms and attic, lofty ceilings,

hall through front to back, lot 3x10

rods, near to Baptist church.

\$2750 AN ADOBE HOUSE OF SIX

rooms, high ceilings, well

painted and finished, summer kitchen, coal

house, bathroom, well and pump; lot 24x10

rods, south front on car line, Twelfth Ward.

\$5000 A TWO STORY HOUSE OF

seven rooms, hot and cold water

in house, gas pipes, etc.; lot 3x10 rods, on

First South street, in a good location.

\$900 WILL BUY A THREE ROOMED

house and small lot in the 10th

ward.

\$1200. HOUSE OF FOUR ROOMS

rustic, bay window, high ceilings

buttry, commanding view; three blocks from

street car good fence on three sides and ma-

terial on ground for other residences; make a

desirable residence for a family not wishing to

reside close to business. Lot 5x10 rods, cor-

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feet high; lot 24x10 rods, well fenced, and a

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ward, lot planted with trees, lot 6x10 rods.

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frame house of eight rooms, pan-

try, bath house, close to, two story barn, all in

good state of preservation, and well painted;

on street car line, lot 12x10 rods.

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sixteen rooms, frame and adobe,

two cellars, east front, lot 4 rods 5 feet by 10

rods back; close to Main street, in a pleasant

location; will do for a hotel or boarding

house. Rents for \$75 per month.

\$1500 A SIX-ROOMED WELL FIN-

ished and convenient house, lot 5

rods front by 10 rods north, fenced; good

stone trees, grape vines, water cistern, etc.